IDEA-0364

3 July 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting at Department of State, 3 July 1961, re
TACKLE Operation

1. A meeting was convened in Mr. McAfee's office at the Department of State at 0930 hours, 3 July 1961, and was attended by Co onel Beerli and Colonel Dan Maloney of the JRC. The TACKLE proposal was the subject of the discussion and the State query concerned the technical feasibility of using an aircraft other than the U-2. The DOD/Agency position as discussed 30 June (see IDEA-0363) was restated, emphasizing that any aircraft other than the U-2 greatly affected the operational vulnerability. Mr. McAfee stated that the Department of State, as a result of Ambassador Thompson's suggestion, felt that the U-2 should be withheld from any operation until such time as it could be used for psychological reasons in the Berlin crisis. In answer to this, Colonel Beerli pointed out that regardless of what aircraft is used in the Far East that the accusation could be made that a U-2 aircraft was involved, and that in accepting the fact that an alternate aircraft could be used, we not only greatly increased the risk factors in a covert operation but at the same time had no guarantee that we would not be accused of utilizing U-2 aircraft. Colonel Beerli stated that in U-2 operations the altitudes varied to such a degree that the mere fact that we were detected, regardless of the aircraft, would not prevent the opposition from accusing us of using the U-2 aircraft. Colonel Beerli said that he would furnish information concerning the

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(Laos and North Vietnam overflights, December 1960 - January 1961) reflecting the _____ reports and any press comment as a result of these operations. This information is available and reflects varied altitudes and no press comments.

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2. Colonel Maloney and Colonel Beerli again emphasized the fact that the primary choice of both agencies was the U-2 aircraft and that any other proposal would require DOD and the Agency to make known that this was a second choice.

STATE review(s) completed.

STANLEY W. BEERLI

Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P